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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING PAPER

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.-Colombian Bilateral Relations

While bilateral relations between the United States and Colombia have always been good, during the current administration of President Turbay, they have been exceptionally good. The ratification of the Quita Sueno Treaty, the participation of a Colombian battalion in the Sinai Multinational Peacekeeping Force, the commitment to send observers to the March 28 elections in El Salvador and the endorsement of the Central American Democratic Community amply demonstrate the coincidence of U.S. and Colombian foreign policies to date. However, with a new administration taking office in August and with all three principal presidential hopefuls lying well to the left of Turbay, maintaining the current bilateral momentum is likely to become much more difficult. Preliminary results from the March 15 congressional elections indicate a higher than average turnout and a major defeat for leftist-insurgents who pledged to disrupt the process. Vice President Bush's visit to Bogota in October initiated a special relationship with Turbay. Most recently, the Secretary met with Foreign Minister Lemos Simmonds on March 15 in New York where Colombia joined the Nassau Group of the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Narcotics Control

Colombia produces an estimated 70% of marijuana consumed in the U.S., an estimated 50% of cocaine consumed in the U.S., and is the main source of counterfeit Quaalude pills for the U.S. market. In 1980, the U.S. Congress authorized $16 million for our anti-narcotics programs in Colombia, but our more "normal" annual expenditures have run in the $3 million range ($2.73 million budgeted for FY 82).

We are engaged in cooperative programs with several Colombian agencies, most notably the National Police, which has established a number of special anti-narcotics units in key areas of the country. These have engaged in aggressive and effective interdiction efforts especially in recent months. With the amendment of the Percy amendment we are able to engage the Colombians in a joint herbicidal eradication effort against marijuana. In addition to obtaining GOC agreement--far from certain, we must first satisfy our domestic environmental requirements under the NEPA and E.O. 12114, before any such campaign can be instituted. The Colombians are also skeptical about how seriously we are attacking marijuana in our own country.

U.S.-Colombian Bilateral Relations

Drafted by:ARA/AND/C:JPBell:cd
INM:PGlascock
3/16/82 X23023

Cleared by:ARA/AND:SMBlock

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There is evidence of increasing cultivation of coca in Colombia, whereas previously Colombian cocaine producers relied primarily on Bolivia and Peru for their raw materials. We will thus have to start giving consideration to a coca eradication effort in Colombia- funds permitting- in addition to our other activities.

March 16, 1982

For several years ~~we have been cooperating with~~ the Government of Columbia has been cooperating with us in a variety of activities already aimed at the illegal production and export of drugs to the U.S. The specific targets have been marijuana (Colombia produces an estimated 70 % of the marijuana consumed in the U.S.), cocaine (Colombia has been the source of an estimated 50 % of the cocaine consumed in the U.S.), and counterfeit Quaalude pills (again, Colombia is the main source).

In 1980, Congress mandated the expenditure of $16 milliljon on anti-narcotics programs in Colombia, but our more "mormal" annual expenditures have run in the $3 million range (& 7.3 million budgeted for FY 82).

We are engaged in cooperative programs with several Colombian agencies, most notably the National Police, which has estaolished a number of special anti-narcotics units in key areas of the country and which has been engaged in aggressive and effective interdiction efforts in recent months.

With the amendment of the Percy amendment we are finally theoretically in a position to engage with the Colombians in a joint herbicidal eradication effort against marijuana, ~~in that country~~. However, before any such campaign can be instituted we must first satisfy our domestic environmental requirements under the NEPA and E.O. 12114, and we must subsequently obtain the agreement of the Government of Colombia. The matter is not a foregone conclusion despite Colombia's recent ~~good~~ cooperation in the anti-narcotics field - in the main because of ~~the May uncertainties~~ preoccupation with and uncertainties surrounding the outcome of the May 4 presidential election. The Columbians are also sceptical about how serious we are attacking marijuana in our own country.

One further unsettling development ~~in Colombia~~ is the fact that there is evidence of increasing cultivation of coca in ~~the country~~ Columbia, whereas

Colombian cocaine producers
previously ~~the Colombian~~ relied primarily on Bolivia and Peru as the
this
source of ~~the~~ raw materials. ~~[illegible]~~ we will thus
have to start giving consideration to a coca eradication effort
-funds permitting -
in Colombia/in addition to our other activities. ~~All this will, of~~
~~course, cost~~

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